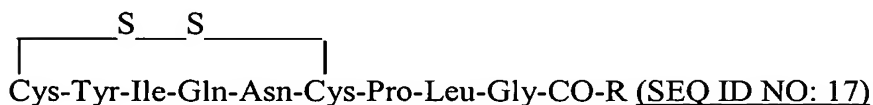


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 5 (lines 18-25) with the following paragraph:

In an embodiment, the above-mentioned oxytocin or functional derivative thereof has the structure:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of OH, NH₂, Gly, Gly-Lys and Gly-Lys-Arg.

Please replace the paragraph on page 14 (lines 28-33) with the following paragraph:

The non-(carboxy-terminal) amidated version has the following structure:



Please replace the paragraph on page 17 (lines 5-10) with the following paragraph:

The term “analog” as is generally understood and used herein, refers to a protein that is substantially similar in function to oxytocin. Preferred OT analogs include for instance extended forms of OT such as OT-Gly (SEQ ID NO: 15), OT-Gly-Lys (SEQ ID NO: 2) and OT-Gly-Lys- Arg (SEQ ID NO: 16). These extended forms are biological oxytocin precursors in vivo.

Please replace the paragraph on page 23 (lines 5-17) with the following paragraph:

With regard to increasing or upregulating expression of a oxytocin in a cell, various methods of introducing oxytocin-encoding nucleic acids into the cell may be used, examples of which are described below. Methods such as the gene therapy methods discussed below may be used in this regard. Examples of oxytocin-encoding nucleic acids include the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO : 5, a nucleic acid capable of encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 6, 15, or 16 or nucleic acids substantially identical thereto. The method may also comprise administering to an area or cardiac tissue a cell comprising such an oxytocin-encoding nucleic acid, via for example implantation or introduction of such a cell comprising such a oxytocin- encoding nucleic acid.